

P 061029Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2399

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 000330

DEPT FOR AF/E - BEYZEROV

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AMED](#) [ASEC](#) [MA](#) [PGOV](#) [KFLU](#)
SUBJECT: ANTANANARIVO POST AND COUNTRY READINESS FOR
COMBATING H1N1

REF: A. (A) 09 STATE 41745
[1](#)B. (B) 09 STATE 6306

[1](#)1. (SBU) There are no known cases of an H1N1 infection in Madagascar to date. The Government of Madagascar (GOM) along with the WHO plans to meet May 6-8 to revise and adapt the Avian Influenza pandemic response plan to address the current situation. The Director of Emergencies and Disease Control (DULM) states all public health centers have received updates on diagnosis and treatment regimes.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Political turmoil in Madagascar adversely affects an already poor local health care system. Personal protective equipment (PPE) are often not utilized and medications, when available often come from unreliable sources. Some hospitals have not been reimbursed by the GOM over the past few months. Confirmation testing for H1N1 in country will reside with the Institut Pasteur utilizing the CDC rRT-PCR kit due for arrival in about a week. Adequate Post medical supplies including anti-virals and PPE are in place. Post contingency planning does not include the use of local hospitals except for life-threatening conditions.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Post is under ordered departure status at this time. The EAC concurs trip wire two as per 2009 guidance on pandemic influenza has been met. Activities are ongoing with education and contingency planning being discussed with all Post personnel. Airline services have largely gone uninterrupted throughout the political crisis. On May 6, Post will host a town hall meeting to update the American community on the current political situation and provide information on the H1N1 situation. Finally, the EAC will meet again in two weeks or as developments warrant.

MARQUARDT